

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly

My name is Mirka Dominguez-Salinas. I am a resident from New Haven.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I am working as a case manager for undocumented community members in New Haven. Every day I see how lack of access to healthcare is hurting individuals and indirectly entire families. Our health allows us to stay healthy and maintain jobs, social relationships, and stable lives. Undocumented members of our communities need access to husky because healthcare is a human right and they deserve to live healthy lives.

As a formerly undocumented resident of Connecticut I have seen firsthand how not having access to healthcare can lead to major health problems and outrageous medical debt. And now I see my clients suffering for the same reasons. They are scared to seek out medical attention because of lack of insurance and lack of resources to pay afterwards. They get so sick that eventually they have no choice but to seek medical attention when their conditions are extreme.

Having access to insurance would allow my clients to be able to afford preventative check ups and get access to medical attention without fear of huge bills. It would also lead to an overall better quality of life in our communities.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Mirka Dominguez-Salinas